

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application and have been allowed. Claims 37-43 are presented again herein in response to the informality noted below. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-43.

II. SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE OATH/DECLARATION

The Examiner indicates that a supplemental reissue oath/declaration is needed to cover the changes and to correct errors made since the previous oath/declaration. Submitted herewith is a Supplemental Declaration for Reissue Patent Application under 37 CFR 1.175.

III. INFORMALITIES IN PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS

The Examiner notes that the amendments filed on June 27, 2003 and September 2, 2003 were not in proper form. Specifically, the amendments were not made with respect to the original patent.

Accordingly, the amendments are presented again herein in proper form (i.e., with respect to the original patent). Claims 37-43 as presented herein represent the claims as allowed.

Applicants note that although only claims 37-43 are presented above as having been amended with respect to the original patent, original claims 1-36 are still pending in the application and have been allowed.

IV. SURRENDER OF ORIGINAL PATENT

The Examiner indicates that the original patent, or a statement as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, must be received prior to allowance. Enclosed herewith is the original patent in fulfillment of the offer to surrender dated April 24, 2001, filed on April 26, 2001.

Serial No.: 09/844,740

V. CONCLUSION

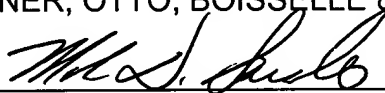
Accordingly, all claims 1-43 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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